

NATIONAL DISASTER LAW (LAW NO. 118)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE TECHNICAL BULLETIN

PH&W GHq SCAP APO 500

JANUARY 1948

1. Purpose

a. The purpose of Law No. 118 is to provide for the Japanese people, in time of disaster, immediate and adequate relief.

b. The plan projected by Japanese officials calls for a single governmental agency, at cabinet level, to include the Prime Minister; Ministers of Welfare, Home, Agriculture and Forestry, Transportation, Commerce and Industry, and Finance; and the President of the Japanese Red Cross Society.

c. The activities of the single overall national level agency will include:

(1) Planning at national level; relief plans to mitigate suffering caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, earthquakes, tidal waves and other calamities.

(2) Initiation and enforcement enabling legislation for the effectuation of disaster relief programs.

(3) Making available at prefectural levels, necessary supplies and services to enable the prefectures to take immediate action in time of disaster when the local supplies in prefectures are inadequate.

(4) Utilization of the prefectural governments, by national direction, to assume responsibility for relief in time of disaster by providing quick, efficient and adequate relief to sufferers.

(5) Action as the liaison agency to receive and pass on to interested sections of SCAP all information and problems bearing on actual operations.

(6) Provision of adequate warning systems.

(7) Provision of funds at national level to adequately meet the needs of disaster.

2. Central disaster Relief Planning Board

a. The Central Disaster Relief Planning Board is composed of the

Prime Minister and all of the ministers of the Cabinet. It is the Board's duty to study the effects of all past disasters, and their affect upon the people and the economy of the country, and to make plans for the alleviation of suffering caused by future disasters.

b. Their duties are listed in paragraph 1 c, above.

c. The Central Disaster Relief Board is composed of the following members:

Prime Minister, Chairman
 Welfare Minister, Vice-Chairman
 Home Minister, Member
 Finance Minister, Member
 Agriculture & Forestry Minister, Member
 Commerce & Industry Minister, Member
 Transportation Minister, Member
 Communication Minister, Member
 Labor Minister, Member
 President of Economic and Stabilization Board
 President of War Calamity Rehabilitation Board
 President, Japanese Red Cross Society
 Civilian Members (counter-parts of the above ministries)
 chosen from outstanding citizens who will assist the government in time of disaster.

3. Working Committee of the Central Disaster Relief Board.

a. The Working Committee of the board is created for the purpose of facilitating the rapid movement of supplies and services. It is composed of bureau chiefs, and their assistants, of the various ministries. Prefectural officials may contact the Working Committee directly in time of disaster.

b. The Working Committee of the Central Disaster Relief Board is composed of the following:

List of Members of the Working Committee of the National Disaster Relief Planning Board

20th Nov., 1947

Ministry or Board	Occupation	Name	Occupation	Name
General Affairs Board	Official of De-liberation Section	TAGAMI, Tatsuo	Official of Deliberation Section	KONO, Shizuo
Economic Stabilization Board	Vice-Director of Production Bureau	ISHIHARA, Takeo	Chief of Supply Section	IMAI, Yoshie
	Director of Daily Life Supplies Bureau	SAKATA, Eiichi	Chief of Welfare Section	YASUDA Zeni-chiro

Reconstruction Board	Director of Construction Bureau	Ito, Goro	Chief of House Section	TORII Stezo
	Director of Social Bureau	KASAI, Yoshisuke	Chief of Protection Section	TAKADA, Masami
Welfare			Chief of Supplies Section	HATAKENAKA, Jun-ichi
Ministry	Director of Medical Bureau	AZUMA, Ryutaro	Chief of Medicine Section	KAMIYA, Hideo
	Director of Prevention Bureau	HAMANO, KIKUO	Chief of Prevention Section	ISHIBASKI Ukichi
	Director of Police Bureau	HISAYAMA, Hideo	Chief of Public Safe Section 1st.	MURAI, Jun
Home			Chief of Fire Section	NAGANO, Minoru
Ministry	Director of Prefectural Affairs Bureau	HAYASHI, Koizo	Chief of General Affairs Section	SHIBATA, Tatsuo
	Director of Country Bureau	IKASAWA, Tadatsune	Chief of River Section	MISHIMA, Toshimi
Finance	Director of Budgetary Bureau	FUKUDA, Takeo	Chief of Budgetary Section 4th	YOSHIOKA Eiichi
Ministry	Director of Tax Bureau	MAIO, Shigesaburo	Chief of Budgetary Section 1st.	WAKIZAKA Minoru
	Director of Bank Bureau	AICHI Kiichi	Chief of Bank Section	NISHIHARA, Naoyasu
Agriculture & Forestry Ministry	Director of General Affairs Bureau	HIRAKAWA Mamoru	Chief of General Affairs Section	OKUHARA, Hideto
Commerce & Industry Ministry	Director of General Affairs Bureau	MARSUDA, Taro	Chief of Supply Section	NAGAYAMA, Tokio

Transportation Ministry	Director of Business Bureau	KAGAYAMA, Yukio	Chief of Gen- eral Affairs Section	ISHII, Akimasa
	Director of Naviga- tion Bureau	AKIYAMA, Tatsushi	Chief of Sec- retariat	TSUBOI, Kurotake
	Director of Land Transportation Super- vision Bureau	GONO, Motohide	Chief of Auto- mobile Trans- portation Section	GONDA, Yoshihiko
Communica- tion Ministry	Director of Electri- cal Affairs Bureau	NAKAYAMA, Jiro	Chief of Tele- graph Section	YAMASHITA, Takeshi
	Director of Techni- cal Affairs Bureau	SHINOHARA, Noboru	Chief of City Section	SUZUKI, Takeyoshi
	Director of Elec- tric Wave Bureau	AMIGIMA, Takeshi	Chief of Plan- ning Section	NISHIZAKI, Taro
Labor Ministry	Director of Employ- ment Bureau	UEYAMA, Akira	Chief of Engage Section	ESHITA, Takeshi
Japan Red Cross Society	Vice-Director	HARA, Taichi	Chief of Busi- ness Section	INOUE, Seishiro
			Chief of Account- ing Section	KAWASAKI, Tojuro
			Chief of Medi- cal Section	SATO, Tadashi

4. Region and Prefectural Planning Boards

a. Regional and Prefectural Planning Boards are created for the same purposes as the National Board for individual prefectures or regions.

b. In order that the National Government may be able to make available, immediately, supplies and services, it is necessary that the representation on the Prefectural Planning Board must contain counter-parts of the ministries represented on the National Board.

c. Composition of the Prefectural Boards will include the prefectural representatives of the following sections:

Chief of Branch Office of Civil Engineering
Home Ministry
Director of Regional Financial Bureau
Chief of Branch Office of Medical Affairs Bureau
Welfare Ministry
Chief of Foodstuff Office
Chief of Charcoal Office
Chief of Control Office of Materials
Agriculture and Forestry Ministry
Director of Commercial and Industrial Bureau
Director of Railroad Bureau
Chief of Motor Car Office
Director of Marine Transportation Bureau
Director of Communication Bureau
Director of Regional Economic Stabilization Board
Chief of Branch Office of Construction, Board of Reconstruction.

d. The Regional and Prefectural Boards will contain civilian counter-parts as well as the local manager of the Japanese Red Cross Society on their local boards, and such other members as the governor shall determine.

e. As the planning boards are high level planning organizations, the bulk of those appointed will be from among those most familiar with government procedures and policies.

5. Disaster Relief Operating Team

a. The Disaster Relief Operating Team is the field unit which carries out actual disaster relief measures. They secure their supplies and services from the Prefectural Planning Boards who in turn receive their supplies and services (not local) from the Working Committee at National Level.

b. Each Disaster Relief Operating team will have the following divisions:

General Affairs Welfare Division
Public Safety Division
Fire Division
Health Division
Economics Division
Engineering Division
Coordination Division

c. Reports:

The prefectural Governor shall submit to the Minister of Welfare by the end of March each year, a complete plan (each fiscal year) for utilizing in time of disaster the Disaster Relief Operating Team contained in paragraph 5 b, above.

d. Mayors or headmen of cities, towns and villages are required to assist in time of disaster.

6. Calamity Relief Fund Law No. 38

a. The Calamity Relief Fund Law No. 38, and Imperial Ordinance No. 20 (1935) are repealed as of 20 October 1947, and such remaining funds are transferred to the Disaster Relief Fund under Law No. 118.

b. Loans previously made under the Calamity Relief Fund Law in accordance with Item 1, paragraph 1, Article 17, may be retained until maturity.

7. Prefectural Funds Held for Disaster

The minimum amount of the disaster relief fund in any prefecture shall be five million yen (Art. 38, Disaster Relief Law No. 118) however, for the current year it shall be one million yen.

8. National Subsidy Provided for Prefectures.

a. The subsidy from the National Treasury's Second Reserve Fund will be granted when the total amount of the expenses borne by the prefectures are in excess of 5% of the total amount of the land, house and business taxes of the previous fiscal year as have been calculated in accordance with the standard tax rates of the prefectures concerned and for the amount in excess according to the following classifications:

50% for the amounts in excess of 5% of the total of the three taxes.

80% for the amounts in excess of 5% of the total of the three taxes and below 10% of same.

90% for the amounts in excess of 100% of the three taxes.

9. As disaster is unpredictable as to amounts necessary to meet needs, the Diet has granted the Government the right to withdraw from the Second Reserve Funds such monies as are necessary to meet the conditions of paragraph 8, above.